

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 03096 171442Z

47

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 MC-02 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /192 W

----- 060323

P 171250Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5827

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 3096

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: GENEVA 3078 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ICRC NOTE DATED MAY 17, 1974 INVITING GOVERNMENTS TO SEND EXPERTS TO CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS SCHEDULED FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 18 IN LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND QUOTE:

THE XXIIND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS (TEHERAN, NOVEMBER 1973), IN RESOLUTION XIV, INVITED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS TO CALL IN 1974 A CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS TO STUDY IN DEPTH THE QUESTION OF PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY CAUSE UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS, AND TO TRANSMIT A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE TO ALL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW HELD IN GENEVA WITH A VIEW TO ASSISTING THEM IN THEIR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS NOTED THIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03096 171442Z

RESOLUTION (A/RES/3076(XXVIII)(X).

ON ACCEPTING THIS MANDATE ON WEAPONS, THE ICRC STATED THAT IT COUNTED ON THE ASSISTANCE OF STATES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION OF SUCH A CONFERENCE GAVE RISE AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO ENSURE THAT THE COSTS OF ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE, WHICH COULD IN NO CASE BE BORNE BY THE ICRC'S BUDGET, WOULD

BE MET.

THE RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (GENEVA, 20 FEBRUARY TO 29 MARCH 1974) SET UP AN "AD HOC COMMITTEE", THE ICRC HAD SUBMITTED A PLAN ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS. AFTER NOTING THE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, THE ICRC CONFIRMED ON 25 MARCH 1974 THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS AT LUCERNE. THE ICRC DREW ATTENTION, HOWEVER, TO THE FACT THAT THE EXECUTION OF THIS PROJECT DEPENDED ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENTS.

WHILE THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED SO FAR DO NOT ENTIRELY COVER THE COST OF THE CONFERENCE, ESTIMATED AT 500,000 SWISS FRANCS, THE ICRC HAS DECIDED TO CALL IT AND HAS SELECTED THE PERIOD FROM 24 SEPTEMBER TO 18 OCTOBER RATHER THAN THE MONTH OF JUNE ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED. THE ICRC HOPES THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THE AMOUNT THEY PROPOSE TO CONTRIBUTE WILL DO SO IN THE MEANTIME. THE ICRC FOR ITS PART INTENDS TO USE THE EXTRA THREE MONTHS FOR COMPLETING PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

ATTACHED HERETO ARE THE PROGRAMME OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AS APPROVED BY THE "AD HOC COMMITTEE" OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE, A NOTE CONTAINING TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, AND FORMS FOR THE BOOKING OF ROOMS. THE ICRC REQUESTS THAT THESE FORMS BE SENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND IN ANY CASE BY 31 JULY AT THE LATEST, TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED.

WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, THE ICRC, AS MAY BE SEEN FROM THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ATTACHED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03096 171442Z

HERETO, HAS ACTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, THE ICRC HAS BEEN APPROACHED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, WITH A VIEW THAT IT SHOULD ACCEPT THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY GOVERNMENTS OR OTHER BODIES WHICH WERE NOT REPRESENTED AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, IN PARTICULAR THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE ICRC IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN THE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION AND APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND OF THE RULES OF HUMANITARIAN LAW. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NATURAL THAT IT SHOULD SUPPORT THE IDEA TO INCLUDE THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS AND AUTHORITIES ON WHOM THIS APPLICATION MAY DEPEND IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELABORATION OF NEW RULES OF HUMANITARIAN LAW, AND IT IS PREPARED TO SEND INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUESTS ADDRESSED TO IT.

BUT IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE THAT THE QUESTION OF INVITATIONS IS OF A HIGHLY POLITICAL CHARACTER, AND IT IS THE ICRC'S CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ITS MISSION TO BE INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSIES IN WHICH GOVERNMENTS ARE OPPOSED AND WHICH CAN ONLY BE SETTLED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, AS THE CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS ON WEAPONS IS LINKED, BY RESOLUTION XIV ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AT TEHRAN IN NOVEMBER 1973, TO THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND IS ITSELF A CONTINUATION OF THE LATTER, THE ICRC CONSIDERS THAT IT CANNOT JUST SIMPLY GO AGAINST DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WHERE THE QUESTION OF INVITATIONS IS CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY, THE ICRC REQUESTS GOVERNMENTS TO LET IT KNOW IN WRITING, BEFORE 31 JULY 1974, IF THEY ARE IN FAVOUR OR NOT OF THE PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM OR BY OTHER BODIES WHICH HAD NOT TAKEN PART IN THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. THE ICRC WILL STAND BY THE WISHES EXPRESSED BY A MAJORITY OF THE REPLIES SENT TO IT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 GENEVA 03096 171442Z

ANY OBSERVATIONS RELATIVE TO THE COMPOSITION OR TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE 31 JULY 1974 DIRECT TO THE ICRC, AS THE CONFERENCE, BY ITS VERY NATURE, IS NOT COMPETENT TO DISCUSS SUCH QUESTIONS.

THE ICRC WOULD ALSO BE GLAD TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE NAMES OF THE EXPERTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN ORDER THAT IT MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE

2. THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF ABOVE NOTE WITH ATTACHEMENTS, I.E., PROGRAM OF CONFERENCE, RULES OF PROCEDURE AND A PAPER ENTITLED "USEFUL INFORMATION" BEING POUCHED. ABRAMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, CONSULTANTS, INVITATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA03096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740122-0900
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740540/aaaabitt.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 3078 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, VN, VS, ICRC, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005